



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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## Cranberries

August 15, 2000

**A special "THANK YOU" goes to Massachusetts Cranberry growers and handlers who have helped us by completing the cranberry survey during July and August.**

### YEAR 2000 CRANBERRY PRODUCTION FORECAST DOWN 8 PERCENT NATIONWIDE

The **United States** forecast for the 2000 cranberry crop is 5.84 million barrels, down 8 percent from 1999 but 7 percent above 1998. Oregon and Washington are forecasting increases from a year ago while Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Wisconsin are expecting a decrease.

The cranberry industry has a marketing order under which growers can only sell 85 percent of their sales history to the processors for the 2000 crop year. These restrictions apply to all five of the major cranberry producing states. Due to the marketing restrictions many growers cut back on inputs or acres to restrict production and cut costs. The reduced inputs include using less fertilizer and not purchasing bees for pollination.

The **Massachusetts** crop is forecast at 1.83 million barrels, down 3 percent from both 1999 and 1998. A mild winter caused little winter damage plus very few insect problems were reported. Growers indicated that the crop had average pollination and set with medium berry size. Growers reported some root rot from the heavy rains but indicate that the crop looks good.

Production in **Wisconsin** is forecast at 2.90 million barrels, 13 percent below 1999 but 15 percent above 1998. Production has declined largely due to reductions in inputs. The season started out well with little winter damage but the cool, wet July is keeping production low. Some hail damage was also reported.

**New Jersey** expects a crop of 550,000 barrels, down 20 percent from 1999 but 6 percent above two years ago. Growers reported good fruit set. Fruit size was reported as average. No significant weather damage was reported but production is expected to drop due to reductions in inputs by the growers.

In **Oregon**, the crop is forecast at 410,000 barrels, 28 percent above last year's crop and up 15 percent from 1998. This year's crop experienced good pollination and fruit set conditions. Fruit is sizing and coloring nicely. No abnormal problems with pests were reported.

The **Washington** crop is forecast at 153,000 barrels, 4 percent above last year but 9 percent below 1998. Washington had a mild winter with little frost damage. Bloom was early and heavy. Weather conditions contributed to good bee activity and favorable pollination. Insects and weeds have been a problem but weather conditions have been highly favorable for a good crop.

### CRANBERRIES: Production, 1998 - 2000

STATE	1998	1999	2000 <sup>1/</sup> Forecast
Barrels <sup>2/</sup>			
Massachusetts	1,875,000	1,875,000	1,825,000
New Jersey	521,000	691,000	550,000
Oregon	355,000	320,000	410,000
Washington	168,000	147,000	153,000
Wisconsin	2,525,000	3,340,000	2,900,000
U.S.	5,444,000	6,373,000	5,838,000

<sup>1/</sup> Current year production is forecast as of mid-August assuming normal conditions for the remainder of the growing season.

<sup>2/</sup> Standard weight used for one barrel of cranberries is 100 pounds

SOURCE: **Cranberries**, 1:00 pm, August 15, 2000, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

### 1999 RECORD HIGH PRODUCTION BUT VALUE DOWN

Production of cranberries in the **United States** in 1999 totaled a record high 6.37 million barrels, up 17 percent from 1998. The area harvested, at a record high 37,300 acres, increased 2 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 170.9 barrels per acre was 22.2 barrels above 1998. The average price per barrel for 1999 is \$17.00, a decrease of \$21.80 per barrel from the 1998 crop year. This steep reduction in the price per barrel drove the value of production down to \$109 million, a 49 percent drop from 1998.

In 1999, the **Massachusetts** average price of \$16.10 per barrel was \$21.20 less than the previous year. This preliminary price is the lowest since 1976 when berries averaged \$13.40 per barrel.

This report is taken from the national **Cranberries** report published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service at 1 pm on August 15, 2000. The **Cranberries** report is issued annually on the third Tuesday in August. Acreage, yield and post-harvest production will be available in the **Non-Citrus Fruit and Nuts** report published in mid-January.

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**CRANBERRIES: Acres, Yield, Production, Utilization, Price and Value, by State, 1998 - 1999**

STATE	Acres Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production		Utilization			Price per Barrel <sup>2/</sup>	Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Utilized	For Fresh	For Processing	Shrinkage <sup>1/</sup>		
	Acres	Barrels	1,000 Barrels <sup>3/</sup>					Dollars	1,000 Dollars
<b>1998</b>									
Massachusetts	14,400	130.2	1,875	1,875	91	1,752	32	37.30	69,938
New Jersey	3,900	133.6	521	521	—	518	3	26.30	13,702
Oregon	2,200	161.4	355	355	—	355	--	39.80	14,129
Washington	1,600	105.0	168	168	24	144	--	25.00	4,200
Wisconsin	14,500	174.1	2,525	2,525	129	2,388	8	43.30	109,332
U.S.	36,600	148.7	5,444	5,444	244	5,157	43	38.80	211,301
<b>1999</b>									
Massachusetts	14,800	126.7	1,875	1,875	138	1,737	—	16.10	30,188
New Jersey	4,000	172.8	691	691	—	688	3	10.70	7,394
Oregon	2,300	139.1	320	320	—	320	—	10.50	3,360
Washington	1,600	91.9	147	147	13	134	—	10.50	1,544
Wisconsin	14,600	228.8	3,340	3,340	160	3,175	5	19.80	66,132
U.S.	37,300	170.9	6,373	6,373	311	6,054	8	17.00	108,618

<sup>1/</sup> Cranberries paid for by processors and lost because of dehydration and berry breakdown after delivery

<sup>2/</sup> Weighted average of co-op and independent sales. Co-op prices represent pool proceeds excluding returns from non-cranberry products and before deductions for capital stock and other retains.

<sup>3/</sup> Standard weight used for one barrel of cranberries is 100 pounds

SOURCE: **Cranberries**, 1:00 pm, August 15, 2000, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**US Cranberry Utilized Production, 1999**

Percent by State

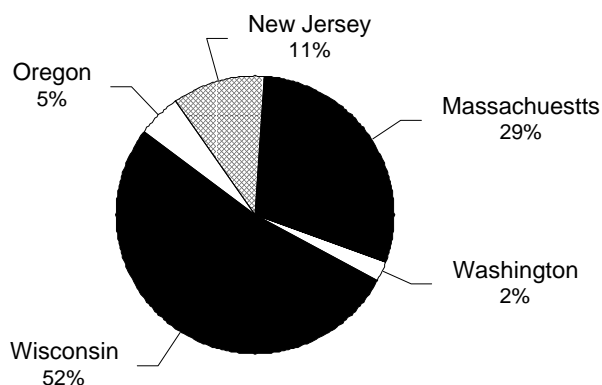
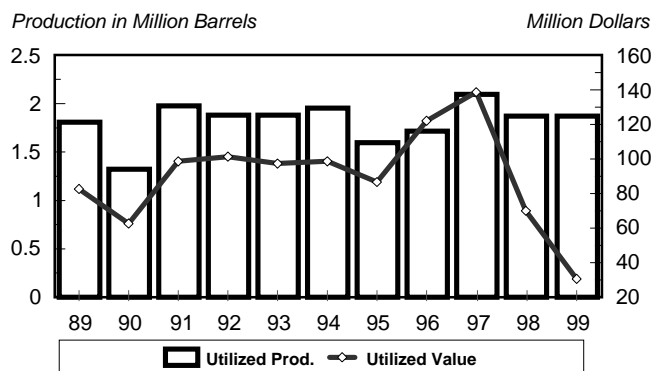


Chart may not add to 100% due to rounding

**Cranberry Utilized Production & Value**

Massachusetts, 1989-1999

**MAINE CRANBERRIES: Acres, Yield, Production, Utilization, Price and Value, 1998 - 1999**

STATE & YEAR	Area Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production		Utilization			Utilized Price per Barrel	Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Utilized	For Fresh Market	For Processing	Shrinkage		
	Acres	Barrels	1,000 Barrels					Dollars	1,000 Dollars
<b>Maine</b>									
1998	70	45.70	3.20	3.10	0.70	2.40	—	55.00	171.0
1999	130	24.10	3.14	3.14	0.27	2.87	—	30.00	94.2

SOURCE: January, 1999, Cranberry Associate, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-581-2940

**CRANBERRY COMMENTS JULY - AUGUST 2000, AS REPORTED ON THE GROWER SURVEY**

Good crop. Who knows what will happen as far as the price goes – “It might be better to just bulldoze the whole thing.” Care of bogs – amount of fertilizer & fungicides, etc.; weeding all lower because of price of cranberries. The crop is fine. Heavy winter sanding cut this year’s production. Too damn many berries in the cranberry crop on the whole. Howes – big size, Blacks – average size. Has heard a very good crop – high yield. Has heard many people have flooded bogs and will not harvest. This practice will not hurt the bog at all. Need some warm weather and a miracle. All fresh fruit harvest. “I wish there were better prices and a better outlook.” Howes and Stevens – usually big at this time of year. Not a good year. Good crop – above average. Size dependent on total rainfall. Crop looks great. No pest or rot problems evident, at this time. We are harvesting fewer acres to help meet the volume regulation. We flooded nearly 10 acres. Looks to be pretty good. Costs! Very good growing season at this point. Main concern is you keeping quality forecast. Some bogs are on a record crop track. Others are average or late because of late water. These crops may be heavy (in lbs.) as well. Rain has helped size. Crop looks good on most bogs. We have taken 20 acres out of production for this year. Had to reduce potential crop by 15 percent, so flooded out two pieces during bloom. Less labor, possible early Fall. Adequate water at this time. Less insect problems, but increased weeds. More weeds – cut back on herbicides for economic reasons. Not many bugs. “I’m optimistic about the crop.” (“not the price”). Sustained minimal hail damage. Actual damage still to be determined. Fertilizer costs are too high. A lot of fungus this year. Dry. Lot more weeds this year. Significant winterkill on many of the vines. Nice to see some drier weather. Looks average. Progress and condition of the crop okay. The price is so low I have not tried to grow a big crop. No pay = no input = small crop. Acreage will be dry picked this year. No money. Everything good but pricing – Large berries due to rain. Putting on fungicides tomorrow, the only good day predicted weatherwise, to prevent rot. That may be a problem this year. Don’t know what they’re going to do in the future. They might sell out. It doesn’t pay to do the work. All the rain helped the crop. Winterkill will reduce crop. Renovation will reduce acreage. Applied pesticides/fertilizers but not sure how crop will turn out -- rot could be a problem. Progress and

condition of crop average. Crop on four acres in good condition as of now. Insect fruit rot to develop as result of wet weather in April, May, and first two weeks of June, plus dampness we have had last week of July. I anticipate no crop whatever worth harvesting. A little bit behind this season because of the weather. Weeds this year due to low income. Some herbicides were applied but not enough. Cold, late spring affected the pollination process, resulting in a lot of pin heads at this time. Little tough on the crop with foggy conditions. Fairly good year, good crop. May get lots of rot due to excessive rain. Set could have been better. Lack of money in crop. Looks great. Plenty of rain. No heat. Send money!! Progression of growth for 2000 is about one week later than 1999. Delayed bloom. Poor keeping quality. Wish things were better for the growers. Dry. Marketing order. Crop is all right but price is unacceptable. Cost two times as much to produce as I’m being paid. Fresh fruit harvest – no 15 percent limit. Coming along nicely. Pretty much a frost-free spring in my area. Rainfall very light to July 20. Irrigating every three days. Spaganothis moth flight very erratic. Bloom was spread out for quite a while (good). Fewer bumble bees than last year. Still a lot of pinheads. 1. Enough rain, so need little irrigation. 2. Cut help. 3. Not been hiring. Lucky good wild blueberries around to pollinate. No way possible to break even. Number 1, 2, 3 all cost cutting measures. Industry is not paying enough for them to raise berries this year. Due to the size of the “payment” little work or expense has gone into the 2000 crop. No money, no berries. Sizing good. Great year if not so cold. Due to a late infestation of weevil and resulting loss of berries, the crop will be less than expected. Crop looks good, late berries look best in ten years. Dry pick for fresh fruit, so not affected by 15 percent limit. May not harvest next year – cost higher than return. Crop has some worms. Timely rain – good bloom – good crop for Massachusetts. A very difficult year for comments. Many cultural practices were eliminated or curtailed. Insect damage to date is light and set appears to be good. Size, while small, does have time to improve. Need the sun to come out. At this time, growing conditions have been very good. Usually pick everything – even ditch berries – not this year. May pick more fresh berries (dry harvest). Lower volume, but exempt from 15 percent limit. Last year sanded bogs – usually reduced crop following year. Hot,

dry weather first part of July during blossom caused less volume. Crop looks decent with respect to its consistent high average. Perfect weather during bloom for setting fruit. Held late water to decrease expenses due to crash of the industry. Not sure we will survive the crash. Now that we have to lose 15 percent of crop – Cranberry Marketing Order. Prices are low. Need sun. Raining problem –perhaps not factor – haven’t used sprays normally used – no money because of price factor: may also affect next year’s crop and (lack of spraying this year). No frost damage in Spring; excellent pollination weather. Will have surplus berries that I cannot sell due to the 15% set aside by Cranberry Marketing Committee. Looks like a good

crop so far, average to bigger berries. Good growing conditions. No frost. Adequate moisture. Losing 15 to 20 dollars per barrel. Over supply of berries caused cut backs in fertilizer, herbicides, bees - should result in smaller crop. No money. A different kind of year - weather related - set was heavy but a lot of the pinheads didn’t make it; uncertain of quality this year because of cool wet weather. Pollination good - rainfall is lacking along with heat - insects are medium - keeping quality forecast is poor. If we receive proper rainfall and some heat soon crop has potential to be above average. Good bloom - good set - looks like good crop. Spotty areas of fruitworm.

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